



United States History Curriculum: Introduction

The Bexley High School United States History curriculum closely matches the ACT Course Standards for American History, with additional input from several state standards as well as the National Standards for History. The course gives students a broad introduction to the major issues and events that have shaped American history from the beginnings of exploration to the present. The course, utilizing broad themes and essential questions, will focus on key developments in American history over time, such as the tension between state and federal power, the extension of liberties and freedoms to an increasing number of citizens, the development of America’s economic power, and the relationship of the United States to other countries.

UNIT ONE: Colonial America, 1400-1763

Competency Goal 1: **The Colonial Period (1400-1754) – The learner will trace the legacies of the development of colonial America.**

Target 1.01:	Evaluate the impact of successful and unsuccessful colonization attempts in North America. [B.1.a] ¹
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish, British, and French purposes in colonization Interactions between Europeans and native peoples 	
Target 1.02:	Analyze the significance of the development of religious freedom in colonial America. [B.1.b]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious toleration and religious freedom Religious diversity in the colonies Great Awakening and religious revival 	
Target 1.03:	Analyze economic development, including the use of indentured servitude and slavery, in the three regions of colonial America [B.1.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarcity of labor in colonial America Development of race-based slavery 	
Target 1.04:	Describe the development of hierarchical social structures in colonial America. [B.1.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social classes Sectional differences in the colonies Economic specialization by region 	
Target 1.05:	Explain the significance of the development of self-government in the colonies. [B.1.e]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of colonial self-government Rights and liberties of Englishmen 	

¹ Numbers [B.1.d] refer to the specific standards in the ACT Course Standards.

UNIT TWO: Forming the New Nation, 1763-1815

Competency Goal 2: **The New Nation (1776-1815) – The learner will describe the American process of attaining independence and forming a new nation.**

Target 2.01:	Analyze how the Declaration of Independence reflects Enlightenment ideas. [B.1.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial traditions of self-government • Effect of enlightenment thought on colonists 	
Target 2.02:	Evaluate the causes of the American Revolution and identify key turning points of the war. [B.1.g]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No taxation without representation 	
Target 2.03:	Analyze the origins of the Constitution. [B.1.h]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “failures” of the AOC • Constitution as a “bundle of compromises” • Creation of a stronger central government 	
Target 2.04:	Analyze the ideas behind and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. [B.1.i, B.1.j]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic principles of the constitution • Importance of a written constitution • States’ rights vs. powerful central government • Bill of Rights as applicable only to federal citizenship • Basic protections of the Bill of Rights 	
Target 2.05:	Explain the origins of the two-party system in the early republic. [No comparable ACT goal]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the first two-party system • Strict & Loose Interpretation of Constitution 	
Target 2.06:	Explain the outcome of federal and state policies toward American Indians in the first half of the nineteenth century. [B.1.l]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice among assimilation, accommodation, and resistance • Conflicts with American Indians 	
Target 2.07:	Evaluate the consequences of U.S. foreign policy to 1825. [B.1.m]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of the high seas and shipping rights • The impact of European events on United States foreign policy 	



UNIT THREE: Reforming a Growing Nation, 1815-1850

Competency Goal 3: Reforming a Growing Nation (1801-1850) - The learner will assess the competing forces of industrialization, nationalism, and sectionalism.

Target 3.01:	Evaluate how the economic changes of the First Industrial Revolution increased sectional tensions. [B.2.a] [B.2.f] [B.2.b]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transformation of life in the early industrial revolution• Economic polarization of Antebellum America• Debates over federal policies (banking and tariffs)
Target 3.02:	Analyze the extent to which democracy expanded during the Age of Jackson. [no comparable ACT goal]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concept of “Jacksonian Democracy”• States’ Rights• Celebrating the common man
Target 3.03:	Explain the impact of social reforms, including women’s rights and universal male suffrage, on sectional tensions and antebellum social development. [B.2.c] [B.2.e] [B.2.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women’s Rights• Temperance Movement• Improvement of social institutions (prisons, mental health, education)• Development of Utopian Communities• Transcendentalist Movement• Literary and Artistic Nationalism
Target 3.04:	Identify the views, achievements, and opponents of the Abolition movement. [B.2.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Great Awakening• Moral Dilemma of Slavery• The Abolitionist Movement



UNIT FOUR: Crisis of Expansion, 1830-1860

Competency Goal 4: Crisis of Expansion (1830-1877) - The learner will assess the extent to which territorial expansion contributed to sectional tensions.

Target 4.01:	Evaluate the political and territorial effects of America’s expansion to the West in the 1830s and 1840s. [B.1.k]
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| <p>Major Concepts and Issues Explored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale for and the consequences of Manifest Destiny • Federal Indian policy before The Civil War • The political and economic importance of the West |
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Target 4.02:	Analyze the major events and issues that promoted sectional conflicts and strained national cohesiveness in the 1850s. [B.2.b]
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| <p>Major Concepts and Issues Explored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The debate on the expansion of Slavery • Weak Presidential Leadership • Growing Sectionalism • Rise of the Republican Party |
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UNIT FIVE: Nationhood Challenged, 1860-1877

Competency Goal 5:	Crisis, Civil War, and Reconstruction (1830-1877) - The learner will analyze the issues that led to the Civil War, the effects of the war, and the impact of Reconstruction on the nation.
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Target 5.03:	Analyze the social, economic, and political impact of Reconstruction. [B.3.c]
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| <p>Major Concepts and Issues Explored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits on presidential and congressional power • Development of a new labor system • Reorganization of southern social, economic, and political systems |
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Target 5.04:	Analyze the immediate and long-term impacts of Reconstruction, including the 13 th , 14, and 15 th amendments, on the lives of African-Americans and U.S. society. [B.3.e] [B.3.d]
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| <p>Major Concepts and Issues Explored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwindling support for civil rights • Reconstruction: resistance and decline |
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UNIT SIX: An Industrial Nation, 1877-1900

Competency Goal 6: **Becoming an Industrial Society (1877-1900) - The learner will describe innovations in technology and business practices and assess their impact on economic, political, and social life in America.**

Target 6.01:	Analyze the settlement of the American West. [C.1.g]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenges of Western life• Motivation for Westward Movement• Technological improvements in farming• Railroads and Farmers
Target 6.02:	Explain the decline of the Plains Indians after 1860. [C.1.h]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of cattle, ranching, and mining industries• Western Movement Impact on Indians
Target 6.03:	Evaluate the impact of new inventions and technologies on business and American life in the late nineteenth century. [C.1.b]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect of technology on industrialization and patterns of work
Target 6.04:	Assess the effect of immigration and industrialization on urban development. [C.1.e] [C.1.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Issues<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Housing○ Sanitation○ Transportation• The rise of ethnic neighborhoods• Operation of political machines and impact of corruption• Patronage vs. the civil service system
Target 6.05:	Explain how business and industrial leaders accumulated wealth and wielded political and economic power. [C.1.b]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes in the ways businesses formed and consolidated power• Influence of business leaders as “captains of industry” or as “robber barons”• Relationship of big business to the government• Influence of ideas on pursuit of wealth
Target 6.06:	Explain the challenges workers faced in organizing labor unions. [C.1.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formation of labor unions• Types of unions• Tactics used by labor unions• Opposition to labor unions



UNIT SEVEN: Populists and Imperialists, 1870-1914

Competency Goal 7: Populists and Imperialists (1870-1914) - The learner will assess how the declining political influence of farming affected increasing racism and imperialism.

Target 7.01:	Trace the rise and decline of Populism. [C.2.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rise and fall of Populism• Impact of laws and court cases on the farmer• Growing discontent of the farmer• Gold Standard vs. Bimetallism	
Target 7.02:	Explain how African Americans responded to patterns of increasing segregation and discrimination in the late nineteenth century. [C.1.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disenfranchisement• African-American responses to Jim Crow• Segregated Society	
Target 7.03:	Analyze different political, social, and economic viewpoints on American imperialism in the late 1890s. [C.2.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global and military competition• Increased demands for resources and markets• Closing of the Frontier• Exploitation of nations, peoples, and resources	
Target 7.04:	Analyze the causes and consequences of the Spanish-American War. [C.2.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causes and conduct of the Spanish-American War• United States Interventions in<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hawaii○ Latin America○ Caribbean○ Asia/Pacific	
Target 7.05:	Trace the development of U.S. foreign policy under Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson. [C.2.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervention vs. Isolation• Support for and opposition to United States economic intervention• Perception of the United States as a world power	



UNIT EIGHT: An Era of Progress, 1890-1920

Competency Goal 8: An Era of Progress (1890-1920) - The learner will trace the rise and fall of the Progressive Movement.

Target 8.01:	Explain the origins and goals of the Progressive movement. [C.2.b]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corruption and ineffectiveness of government• Immigration and urban poor• Working conditions• Unequal distribution of wealth	
Target 8.02:	Explain the economic and political accomplishments of Progressives for different groups of Americans. [C.2.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progressive presidents• The growing power of the electorate• The changing roles and influence of women• The impact of political and economic changes on the working class	
Target 8.03:	Analyze the causes of U.S. involvement in World War I. [D.1.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causes of World War I in Europe• Isolation vs. intervention• U. S. anti-war Sentiment• Reasons for U. S. entry into The Great War	
Target 8.04:	Evaluate America's role in the resolution of World War I. [D.1.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of United States involvement in World War I• Modernization of warfare• Failure of the United States to ratify the Treaty of Versailles	



UNIT NINE: Boom, Bust, and Rebound, 1920-1939

Competency Goal 9: **Boom, Bust, and Rebound (1920-1939) - The learner will analyze the cultural and economic climate of the 1920s and how the New Deal response to the Great Depression reshaped American governance.**

Target 9.01:	Explain the political and economic results of America's return to isolationism after World War I. [D.1.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-immigration sentiment and the first Red Scare• Restrictions on civil liberties during wartime• Impact of isolationism on American foreign policy
Target 9.02:	Identify the social, religious, and cultural tensions of the 1920s. [D.1.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of mass media• The Harlem Renaissance• Prohibition• Leisure time and spectator sports• The "Back to Africa" movement• Fundamentalism vs. modernism• Religion in politics• The changing role of women
Target 9.03:	Analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Depression. [D.1.e] [D.1.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergence of advertising and consumerism• Increasing wealth inequality• The impact of presidential policies on economic activity• Decline of agriculture• Factors leading to the stock market crash• Hoover's response to the Depression
Target 9.04:	Assess the impact of the New Deal reforms in enlarging the role of the federal government in American life. [D.1.g]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses to the New Deal program• The Three R's (Relief, Recovery, Reform)• Expansion of the role of federal government• Limits of the New Deal for Indians, Women, African-Americans• Effect of the New Deal on solving the economic crisis



UNIT TEN: World War II, 1930-1945

Competency Goal 10: **World War II (1930-1945) - The learner will analyze the United States involvement in World War II and the war's influence on the home front.**

Target 10.01:	Analyze the origins of U.S. involvement in World War II. [E.1.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeasement• Isolationism• Reparations• Totalitarian Governments• Treaty of Versailles• Worldwide depression	
Target 10.02:	Identify key military actions and policies during World War II. [E.1.b] [E.1.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The United States at war• The influence of propaganda at home and abroad• Designs for peace	
Target 10.03:	Analyze the social, political, economic, and technological impacts of World War II on the home front. [E.1.d] [E.1.e]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Homefront• Suspension of Civil Liberties• Transition to Peacetime	



UNIT ELEVEN: The Beginning of the Cold War (1945-1963)

Competency Goal 11: **Beginning of the Cold War (1945-1963) – The learner will evaluate the causes and effects of American involvement in the containment of communism after World War II.**

Target 11.01:	Analyze the origins of the Cold War, key ideas of foreign policy, and major events of the administrations from Truman to Kennedy. [E.1.g]
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Major Concepts and Issues Explored

- U. S. Military Intervention
- Containment
- The Cold War
- The Domino Theory

Target 11.02:	Analyze impact of the Cold War on domestic life in the U.S. [E.1.f]
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Major Concepts and Issues Explored

- Effects of Cold War On America's Home life
- McCarthyism
- Spread of Suburbia
- The Military Industrial Complex
- Impact of the Space Race



UNIT TWELVE: The Rights-Conscious Age, 1954-1973

Competency Goal 12: **The Rights-Conscious Age (1945-1973) –The learner will trace economic, political, and social developments and assess their significance for the lives of Americans during the turbulent 1960s.**

Target 12.01:	Assess the impact of individuals and events in securing civil rights for African Americans in the twentieth century. [E.2.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Civil Rights Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>De jure</i> and ○ <i>De facto</i> Segregation ○ Affirmative Action ○ Turning points • Changes in state and federal Legislation 	
Target 12.02:	Analyze the achievements of civil rights movements inspired by the African American civil rights movement. [E.2.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feminists ○ Indian ○ Latino • Social Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pop Culture ○ Counter Culture • Rights established by the Warren Court 	
Target 12.03:	Evaluate the extent to which the Great Society reforms reduced poverty. [E.2.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Frontier ○ Great Society • War on Poverty • Urban renewal programs 	
Target 12.04:	Evaluate the political and social impact of the Vietnam War. [E.1.h]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of the domino theory • U. S. Involvement in Vietnam • Vietnam’s effect on U. S. politics and society • Vietnamization • Role of the media 	



UNIT THIRTEEN: The Conservative Resurgence, 1968-1992

Competency Goal 13: **The Conservative Resurgence (1968-1992) – The learner will identify origins of the modern conservatives and trace their impact upon American culture and government.**

Target 13.01:	Trace the origins and consequences of the rising conservative movement of the late twentieth century on domestic politics. [E.2.a]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1968 Election as a pivotal year for the “silent majority”<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tet Offensive• Assassinations• Watergate Scandal• Citizens’ distrust of the federal government	
Target 13.02:	Analyze the on-going debate over the power of federal and state governments to address civil rights in modern American society. [E.2.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limits to the Civil Rights Movement• The Supreme Court:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minority rights• Privacy rights• Conservative judges	
Target 13.03:	Evaluate the impact of economic policies on late twentieth-century America. [E.2.d]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmentalism• Technology and shifts in population• Changes in work force composition• Weakening American economy• Energy Crisis• Conservative Solutions to economic stagnation	
Target 13.04:	Analyze the reasons for the end of the Cold War and America’s response to Radical Islam. [E.2.e]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problems in the Third World• Politics of Oil• Rise of Religious and Political Radicalism• Collapse of Communism• Changing roles of International Organizations	



UNIT FOURTEEN: America's Global Age, 1990-Present

Competency Goal 14: America's Global Age (1990-Present) – The learner will identify and analyze the effects of America's increasing global contacts on business and domestic politics.

Target 14.01:	Evaluate the impacts of globalization. [E.2.e] [E.2.f]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalization• Internet revolution• Global Warming	
Target 14.02:	Analyze major domestic policies from the Clinton administration to the present. [E.2.c]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welfare Reform• Presidential Troubles• Major Issues<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Health Care○ Welfare reform	
Target 14.03	Evaluate the impact of pluralism on American society. [E.2.c]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing Cultural Diversity in the United States• Questions of Race• Population Changes and new demographics	
Target 14.04:	Analyze the effect of terrorism on American domestic and foreign policy. [E.2.e]
Major Concepts and Issues Explored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrictions on Civil Liberties• The U. S. government's policy toward terrorism• Impact of terrorist threats on U. S. foreign policy	



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